IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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:	Examiner: J. Culler
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:	Group Art Unit: 2854
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)	July 7, 2003
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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Introductory Comments

The present Amendment has been prepared in accordance with the Revised Format established by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, as permitted in the Pre-OG Notice entitled "Amendments in a Revised Format Now Permitted".

Prior to examination on the merits, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows.

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RCE \$

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

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Application Number	09/900,949
Filing Date	July 10, 2001
First Named Inventor	Koichiro Kawaguchi
Group Art Unit	2854
Examiner Name	Jill E. Culler
Attorney Docket Number	03560.002855

Filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.			
a. Previously submitted i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be consider the arguments in the Appeal Brie iii. Other b. Enclosed i. Amendment/Reply ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)	RECEIVED TO STREET PREVIOUS SIZE OF THE CEIVE TO STREET PREVIOUS SIZE OF THE CEIVE THE		
a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) For a period of months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) Equired) b. Other 3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed. a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205 ii. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) C. IV. Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and 1.17) iii. Other b. Check in the amount of \$ 750.00 is enclosed c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)			
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED			
Name (<i>Print/Type</i>) Mark A. Williamson Signature Wall (W)	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 33,628 Date July 7, 2003		
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on: Name (Print/Type)			
Signature	Date		

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Director of the U.S.P.T.O., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.